

Session 1 - Why this study is important

For this session read the following:

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Series Preface 11

Foreword 13

Introduction 15

- 1. Why this series? Why is 9Marks writing this series?** (Two reasons found on pg. 11)
- 2. Which “mark of a healthy church” do you think this book primarily address? What others may be affected or influenced by this mark?**
- 3. Considering our community, and the people that call themselves Christians, how firm a grasp do you think most have on the content of the Christian gospel?** (pg. 15)
- 4. What Gospel element did the author say was missing in the quotation?** (pg. 17)
- 5. After reading the quotes on pages 18-20, do you agree with the author’s statement: “The gospel is surrounded by a fog of confusion?” Why, or why not?**
- 6. On pages 20-22 the author lists five (5) things he hopes happens in the life of the reader. List a summary of each prayer, and pray that for your life.**

Session 2 - Finding the Gospel in the Bible

For this session read the following:

Chapter 1 23

1. Gilbert points out the need for determining our authority in answering the question, "What is the Gospel?"

What danger is there in making your authority one of the following:

Tradition (pg. 25)

Reason (pg. 25)

Personal Experience (pp. 25-26)

2. What reasons does he give for using the Word of God as our authority? (pg. 26)

3. In studying the Gospel, why not just do a word study on whenever the word gospel appears? (pp. 26-27)

4. How does Gilbert suggest we study the topic? (pg. 27)

5. What are the core truths of the Gospel presented by Paul in Romans 1-4? (pp. 28-31)

6. What four words does Gilbert use to summarize the four major points? (pg. 31)

7. What critical truths were present in the gospel of the early church? (pg. 36)

8. What questions does this chapter bring to mind?

Session 3 - God the Righteous Creator

For this session read the following:

Chapter 2 37

1. What does Gilbert say about making assumptions about what people know about God? (pg. 39)

2. What two main points must we make about God? (pg. 40)

GOD THE CREATOR

3. What is the beginning of the Christian message, as well as the Bible? (pg. 40)

4. What are your thoughts about these statements? (pg. 42)

Despite our constant talk of rights and liberty, we are not really as free as we would like to think. We are created. We are made. And therefore we are owned.

Because he created us, God has the right to tell us how to live.

GOD THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS ONE

5. Do you think our culture, even our church, really believes the loving and compassionate God does not leave the guilty unpunished? (pg. 43)

6. Gilbert says God is no unscrupulous janitor. What does that mean? (pg. 43)

7. Does God's love cancel out his justice and righteousness? (pg. 44)

8. Why is the idea of God as a unscrupulous janitor so unsatisfying? (pg. 44)

9. Summarize how we should describe God. (pg. 45)

Session 4 - Man the Sinner

For this session read the following:

Chapter 3 47

- 1. What is sin? (pg. 48)**

- 2. When Adam and Eve bit into the fruit, what were they really doing? (pg. 49)**

- 3. What do you think of Gilbert's description of spiritual death? (bottom of pg. 50)**

- 4. Are we basically good? (pg. 51)**

- 5. We sometimes confuse sin with it's effects. What is humanity's greatest problem? (pg. 51)**

- 6. We are not victims deserving help, but we are _____, deserving of judgment. (pg. 52) What do you think about that?**

- 7. Sin is not merely the breaking of a relationship between two equals. It is rebellion against a good and righteous King. What is the human punishment for treason? How does that help us understand the necessary punishment for our sin? (pg. 52)**

- 8. Did Jesus die to save us from negative thoughts about ourselves?**

- 9. What is the difference between *our sins* and *our sin*? (pp. 54-55)**

- 10. Why should we give a biblically accurate description of hell? (pg. 57)**

Session 5 - Jesus Christ the Savior

For this session read the following:

Chapter 4 59

1. Review and summarize the first two points (the bad news): God, man.

2. Meditate on this quote from pg. 61.

The Bible is the story of God's counteroffensive against sin. It is the grand narrative of how God made it right, how he is making it right, and how he will one day make it right finally and forever.

What stage are we in?

FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN

3. Jesus is completely human and completely God. Why is this important to understand?

4. What is so exciting about the coming of the kingdom of God? (pp. 62-63)

5. What idea is seen in the "powerful symbol" of the Passover lamb? (pg. 65)

6. What were the two aspects of Jesus' mission? (pg. 66)

7. Why did Jesus willingly lay down His life? (pg. 67)

8. How are we to understand "penal substitutionary atonement"? (pp. 67-69)

9. Why is it important that Jesus is risen? (pp. 69-70)

Session 6 - Response-Faith and Repentance

For this session read the following:

Chapter 5 71

1. **What was the pool jumping illustration trying to show us? (pg. 72)**

2. **According to Mark 1:15, what is the required response to the “good news”? (pg. 73)**

3. **How does Gilbert describe a Christian on pg. 73?**

4. **What is faith? (pg. 74)**

5. **What are we relying on Jesus for? (pg. 75)**

6. **Describe the “magnificent exchange” on pg. 76.**

7. **Summarize “Faith Alone. (pp. 78-79)**

8. **What is Repentance? (pg. 79)**

9. **Is it possible to accept Jesus as Savior but not as Lord? (pg. 80)**

10. **“...genuine repentance is more fundamentally a matter of the heart’s attitude toward sin that it is a mere change of behavior. Do we _____ sin and war against it, or do we _____ it and defend it?”**

11. **What happens when a person genuinely repents and believes in Christ? (pg. 82)**

12. **Where will you point? (pg. 83)**

Session 7 - The Kingdom

For this session read the following:

Chapter 6 85

- 1. What are some of the rewards of being a Christian? (pg. 85)**

- 2. What is the kingdom of God? (pp. 87-88)**

- 3. What did Jesus' incarnation indicate? (pg. 89)**

- 4. What does it mean that the Kingdom of God is not complete? (pp. 90-93)**

- 5. How is one included in the Kingdom? (pp. 94-96)**

- 6. What is the call for citizens of the Kingdom? (pp. 96-98)**

- 7. Where is Kingdom life primarily worked out? (pg. 98)**

- 8. What is our motivation to "press on through darkness?" (pg. 99)**

Session 8 - Keeping the Cross at the Center

For this session read the following:

Chapter 7 101

- 1. What was Bunyan's point? (pg. 102)**

- 2. What does Gilbert say is one of the greatest dangers facing the church today? (pg. 102)**

- 3. Why is this dangerous? (pg. 103)**

THREE SUBSTITUTE GOSPELS

- 4. What is missing in the "Jesus is Lord" message?**

- 5. What is missing in the Creation-Fall-Redemption-Consummation message? (pp. 105-107)**

- 6. What is Gilbert's concern with the Cultural Transformation movement? (pp. 107-109)**

- 7. What must remain at the center of the Gospel? (pg. 110)**

Session 9 - The Power of the Gospel

For this session read the following:

Chapter 8 113

1. The beauty of the Gospel should permeate our thoughts and emotions, affecting our entire lives. Why doesn't it? (pg. 115)

Responses to the Gospel

2. The Bible commands us to repent and believe the Gospel. What does that mean? (pg. 116)

3. Why is it possible to "rest and rejoice" in the Gospel? (pp. 116-117)

4. What is God's verdict over you? (pg. 117)

5. In what is this verdict grounded? (pg. 117)

6. How should your relationships with God's people be different in light of the Gospel? (pp. 117-118)

7. In light of the Gospel, how should we respond to the world around us? (pp. 118-120)

8. If there is no other gospel, and there is no other way for people to be saved from their sins, what should be our desire? (pg. 120)

9. If we understand the Gospel rightly, what are we to be longing for? (pp. 120-121)